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THEOCRITUS  
A SELECTION  
IDYLLS  
I, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 13

EDITED BY  
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## PREFACE

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The need for a new commentary on Theocritus, and particularly one with a literary bias, is, I hope, self-evident. How far the present volume goes towards filling that need is a matter for others, but I should say that I do not think that I was ever so deluded as to aim to ‘replace Gow’, and (like Sir Kenneth Dover before me) I hope that both my debt to Gow’s monumental edition and our abiding dependence upon it are clear from every page of my own commentary. I regret, of course, that there are only eight poems in the present collection, but I would have regretted much more the inevitable silences which a larger corpus would impose, within the (admirable) parameters of Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics. Moreover, the longer I worked on this book, the more these eight poems seemed to hang together in ways that I had never suspected, and I hope that some sense of this emerges from the separate discussions.

Another regret is that there has been no space to pursue *Nachleben* at any length. I have, by means of the sign >, indicated where a verse of T. has been an important model for Virgil, but I am only too aware that such mechanical devices conceal more than they reveal. Doubtless I have missed some examples, but some apparent omissions may reflect a judgement about what constitutes ‘an important model’ rather than oversight or ignorance.

My debt to willing friends and critics is, as ever, very large. Pat Easterling, Marco Fantuzzi, Philip Hardie, Ted Kenney and Laura Rossi commented upon a draft typescript and saved me from much that I would not have wanted to see the light of day; where I have shamelessly adopted their suggestions, they will, I hope, recognise genuine gratitude. John Henderson helped me to believe that I understood something of Idyll 7 and Eclogue 9; as always, Neil Wright listened patiently and refused to settle for easy answers. Susan Moore’s copy-editing taught me more than I care to confess.

An award under The British Academy Research Leave Scheme helped bring this project to completion.

## CONVENTIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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1. Except where it is relevant to the argument, poems of the Theocritean corpus are all cited as though 'genuine'; thus, 1.7, 23.7, *not* 1.7, [23].7.
2. Translations are my own, unless the translator is identified.
3. The works of Homer (*Il.*, *Od.*), Apollonius (*Arg.*) and Virgil (*Ecl.*, *Georg.*, *Aen.*) are cited by title only.
4. (i) Unless otherwise specified, references to Callimachus are to the edition of R. Pfeiffer (Oxford 1953–9).  
 (ii) *EA* = Bion, *Epitaphios Adonidos*.  
*EB* = [Moschus], *Epitaphios Bionis*.
5. Abbreviations for periodicals usually follow the system of *L'Année Philologique*.
6. In the spelling of Greek names, ease of recognition has been the principal aim. The names of authors are usually 'latinised', whereas other names may be transliterated.
7. The following editions of Theocritus are cited by author only:  
 A. Fritzsche, 2nd ed., Leipzig 1870  
 U. von Wilamowitz-Moellendorf, Oxford 1905  
 K. Latte, Iserlohn 1948  
 A. S. F. Gow, 2nd ed., Cambridge 1952  
 K. J. Dover, London 1971  
 C. Gallavotti, 3rd ed., Rome 1993
8. Modern works cited by author and date only are listed in the Bibliography.
9. Collections of texts and works of reference are abbreviated as follows:

<i>CA</i>	J. U. Powell (ed.), <i>Collectanea Alexandrina</i> (Oxford 1925)
<i>CEG</i>	P. A. Hansen (ed.), <i>Carmina epigraphica Graeca</i> (Berlin / New York 1983, 1989)
<i>CGFPR</i>	C. F. L. Austin (ed.), <i>Comicorum Graecorum fragmenta in papyris reperta</i> (Berlin / New York 1973)

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Chantraine	P. Chantraine, <i>Grammaire homérique</i> (Paris 1948–53)
CPG	E. L. Leutsch and F. Schneidewin, <i>Corpus paroemiographorum Graecorum</i> (Göttingen 1839–51)
Davies– Kathirithamby	M. Davies and J. Kathirithamby, <i>Greek insects</i> (London 1986)
Denniston	J. D. Denniston, <i>The Greek particles</i> (ed. 2, Oxford 1954)
FGrHist	F. Jacoby (ed.), <i>Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker</i> (Berlin 1923–30, Leiden 1940–58)
GG	<i>Grammatici Graeci recogniti et apparatus critico instructi</i> (Leipzig 1867–1910)
Goodwin	W. W. Goodwin, <i>Syntax of the moods and tenses of the Greek verb</i> (ed. 2, London 1889)
GP	A. S. F. Gow and D. L. Page (eds.), <i>The Garland of Philip and some contemporary epigrams</i> (Cambridge 1968)
HE	A. S. F. Gow and D. L. Page (eds.), <i>The Greek anthology: Hellenistic epigrams</i> (Cambridge 1965)
K–B	R. Kühner and F. Blass, <i>Ausführliche Grammatik der griechischen Sprache. Erster Teil: Elementar- und Formenlehre</i> (3rd ed., Hanover 1890–2)
K–G	R. Kühner and B. Gerth, <i>Ausführliche Grammatik der griechischen Sprache. Zweiter Teil: Satzlehre</i> (3rd ed., Hanover / Leipzig 1898–1904)
KRS	G. S. Kirk, J. Raven and M. Schofield, <i>The Presocratic philosophers</i> (2nd ed., Cambridge 1983)
Lampe	G. W. H. Lampe, <i>A patristic Greek lexicon</i> (Oxford 1961)
LGNP	P. M. Fraser and E. Matthews (eds.), <i>A lexicon of Greek personal names</i> (Oxford 1987– )
Long–Sedley	A. A. Long and D. N. Sedley, <i>The Hellenistic philosophers</i> (Cambridge 1987)
LSJ	<i>A Greek–English lexicon</i> , eds. H. G. Liddell, R. Scott, H. Stuart Jones, R. Mackenzie (9th ed., Oxford 1968)



x CONVENTIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<i>LfgRE</i>	<i>Lexikon des frühgriechischen Epos</i> , eds. B. Snell et al. (Göttingen 1979– )
<i>LIMC</i>	<i>Lexicon iconographicum mythologiae classicae</i> (Zurich / Munich 1981–97)
Molinos Tejada	T. Molinos Tejada, <i>Los dorismos del Corpus Bucolicorum</i> (Amsterdam 1990)
Otto	A. Otto, <i>Die Sprichwörter und sprichwörtlichen Redensarten der Römer</i> (Leipzig 1890)
<i>PGM</i>	K. Preisendanz (ed.), <i>Papyri Graecae magicae</i> (2nd ed., Stuttgart 1973–4)
<i>PMG</i>	D. L. Page (ed.), <i>Poetae melici Graeci</i> (Oxford 1962)
<i>PMGF</i>	M. Davies (ed.), <i>Poetarum melicorum Graecorum fragmenta 1</i> (Oxford 1991)
Polunin– Huxley	O. Polunin and A. Huxley, <i>Flowers of the Mediterranean</i> (London 1965)
Preisigke	Fr. Preisigke, <i>Wörterbuch der griechischen Papyrusurkunden</i> (Berlin 1925–7)
<i>RE</i>	<i>Paulys Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft</i> (Stuttgart 1893– )
Roscher	W. H. Roscher (ed.), <i>Ausführliches Lexikon der griechischen und römischen Mythologie</i> (Leipzig 1884–1937)
Schwyzler	E. Schwyzler, <i>Griechische Grammatik</i> (Munich 1939–53)
<i>SEG</i>	<i>Supplementum epigraphicum Graecum</i> (Leiden 1923– )
<i>SH</i>	H. Lloyd-Jones and P. Parsons (eds.), <i>Supplementum hellenicum</i> (Berlin / New York 1983)
<i>SLG</i>	D. L. Page (ed.), <i>Supplementum lyricis Graecis</i> (Oxford 1974)
<i>SPG</i>	R. Foerster, <i>Scriptores physiognomonici Graeci et Latini</i> (Leipzig 1893)
Stephens– Winkler	S. A. Stephens and J. J. Winkler (eds.), <i>Ancient Greek novels. The fragments</i> (Princeton 1995)
<i>SVF</i>	J. von Arnim (ed.), <i>Stoicorum veterum fragmenta</i> (Leipzig 1905–24)

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Thompson, <i>Birds</i>	D. W. Thompson, <i>A glossary of Greek birds</i> (2nd ed., London 1966)
Thompson, <i>Fishes</i>	D. W. Thompson, <i>A glossary of Greek fishes</i> (London 1957)
<i>TrGF</i>	B. Snell, R. Kannicht and S. Radt (eds.), <i>Tragicorum Graecorum fragmenta</i> (Göttingen 1971– )